

THE PASSING OF JOHN DOWLIN

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2011

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember former Hamilton County Commissioner John Dowlin, who passed away on July 15th at the age of 81.

After spending 38 years at Procter and Gamble and 28 years as the Mayor of Sharonville, Ohio, John Dowlin served 13 years on the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners.

Throughout his distinguished career, John became known for his principles, his work ethic, and especially his bow ties.

I had the opportunity to work with Commissioner Dowlin when I was in the state legislature, and I always found him to be honest and fair.

Commissioner Dowlin was the kind of person we should all strive to be, standing up for what he believed was right—even when others believed he was wrong.

He is survived by his loving wife, Sarah, four children, and nine grandchildren.

The world is a better place because of John Dowlin. May he rest in peace.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of a true public servant.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2011

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, due to family matters, I was unable to vote on consideration of H.R. 1315, the Consumer Financial Protection Safety and Soundness Improvement Act of 2011 on Thursday, July 21, 2011. I was also unable to vote on consideration of H.R. 2551, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2012 on Friday, July 22 2011.

Had I been present, I would have voted to support H.R. 1315. For the Amendments to H.R. 1315, I would have voted to support the Rigell Amendment. I would have voted to oppose the Jackson Lee Amendment #1, the Miller Amendment, the Jackson Lee Amendment #2, the Maloney Amendment, and the Motion to Recommit.

Had I been present, I would have voted to support H.R. 2551. For the amendments to H.R. 2551, I would have voted to support the Hayworth Amendment, the Broun Amendment, and the Stutzman Amendment. I would have voted to oppose the Watt Amendment, the Thompson Amendment, the Holt Amendment, and the Moran Amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF PINNACLE TECHNICAL RESOURCES

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pinnacle Technical Resources, Inc. on its fifteenth anniversary this year.

Located in Dallas, Texas, Pinnacle was born in a living room and quickly matured into an award-winning information technology staffing company. Under the leadership and vision of Chief Executive Officer Nina Vaca-Humrichouse, Pinnacle expanded nationwide and created over 20,000 jobs, consequently ranking six straight years as one of the fastest growing companies in its industry. In 2009, Pinnacle received the CIO 100 Award for its development of PROGATA, a proprietary industry-leading software tool.

Beyond their financial success, Pinnacle emphasizes social responsibility and actively encourages employees to contribute to the local community. Boy Scouts of America, United Way, Habitat for Humanity, and the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation are among the many non-profit organizations Pinnacle supports. This year, Pinnacle also provided scholarships to thirty-two high school students to attend the Dallas Hispanic Youth Institute, a well-regarded summer symposium.

Pinnacle Technical Resources embodies the entrepreneurial spirit of America; a concept with humble beginnings that transformed into a fast-growing and nationally recognized company. Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating the staff and leadership of Pinnacle Technical Resources as they celebrate fifteen years of success.

HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL OF PAINTERS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I wish to call my colleagues' attention to the Hudson River School of Painters, the first American school of painters that contributed to an appreciation of the American landscape and conservation of this country's natural beauty. At the time of its operation in the 19th Century, it was a significant achievement in American art and culture that commemorated American landscapes in a manner unseen before by American citizens and others around the world.

Recently, I had the distinct honor to unveil the first of a series of historic bronze markers along the Hudson River. These bronze markers are designed to indicate where painters put their easels in order to create a panorama and vista of the river itself. The historic bronze marker, created by Greg Wyatt, Director of the Academy of Art at the Newington-Cropsey Foundation in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York, honor the sites where painters such as Jasper F. Cropsey, Thomas Cole, Frederic Edwin Church, and Asher Durand stood to create paintings reflecting their unique perspectives on nature. Additional sites are planned this coming year at Hook Mountain State Park and Newburgh, New York.

In light of this occasion, I would like to commend my colleague Representative MAURICE HINCHEY in his long record of support for both the rebirth of study of this first American school of painting, and for his determination to present to Congress and the American people the importance of the Hudson Valley to our cultural heritage.

I also would like to commend the Architect of the Capitol for displaying two paintings purchased by Congress after the Civil War from the famous 19th century Hudson River School painter Albert Bierstadt. They are entitled "Discovery on the Hudson" and "Entrance into Monterey," and are available for viewing in the Capitol Visitors Center. I urge all of my colleagues and their constituents to appreciate these wonderful pieces of art.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2551) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to the amendments that would reduce funding appropriated in H.R. 2551, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2012 for the U.S. Botanic Garden.

As you may know, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison initially had the idea of starting a national botanic garden and helped to establish one on the National Mall in 1820. It is a keystone on our mall and belongs to the American people. The mission of the U.S. Botanic Garden is to demonstrate the aesthetic, cultural, economic, therapeutic and ecological importance of plants to the well-being of humankind. It is a national and global center for learning about how to sustain life on our planet, especially as climate changes and new challenges confront our society's plant life.

According to the Architect of the Capitol, approximately 1 million people visit the U.S. Botanic Garden each year. About 12,000 different plant accessions comprising more than 60,000 plants are displayed for exhibition, study, conservation and exchange with other institutions. The Botanic Garden is America's encyclopedia for sustaining production and life itself.

In addition to displaying some of the world's most rare and endangered plants, the U.S. Botanic Garden provides numerous educational opportunities through its partnerships, workshops, lectures, tours and demonstrations. Some specific education programs include the opportunity to earn a Certification in Botanical Art and Illustration, the Junior Botanist Program and several hands-on activities exploring plant materials. The Gardner instructs the next generation with partnerships across our nation.

Mr. Chair, we are still in the midst of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, and a series of odd weather events. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service reports that greenhouse, nursery and floriculture operations account for 2.5 percent of all U.S. farms but employ nearly 5 percent of hired farm workers. This sector has a sales value of \$16.6 Billion. It is a one-of-a-kind endowment America depends on.